

THE WHITE HOUSE
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September 29, 1978

Presidential Directive/NSC-41

TO: The Vice President
The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense

ALSO: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Administrator, General Services
Administration

SUBJECT: U.S. Civil Defense Policy (U)

I have reviewed the recommendations of the Policy Review Committee meeting on PRM-32. Based on them, I direct that the U.S. Civil Defense program seek to:

- Enhance deterrence and stability in conjunction with our strategic offensive and other strategic defensive forces. Civil defense, as an element of the strategic balance, should assist in maintaining perceptions of that balance favorable to the U.S.
- Reduce the possibility that the U.S. could be coerced in time of crisis.
- Provide some increase in the number of surviving population and for greater continuity of government, should deterrence and escalation control fail, in order to provide an improved basis for dealing with the crisis and carrying out eventual national recovery.

This policy does not suggest any change in continuing U.S. reliance on strategic offensive nuclear forces as the preponderant factor in maintaining deterrence. U.S. civil defense programs will take advantage of the mobility of the population stemming from wide ownership of private automobiles, the extensive highway systems, and the large number of

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non-urban potential housing facilities to achieve crisis relocation of the urban population. Civil defense programs should also help deal with natural disasters and other national emergencies.

Jimmy Carter

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